

Changes to University Regulations and Codes of Practice from 1st August 2014

The academic and student related Regulations (i.e. Sections 5 to 8 of the Regulations) and Codes of Practice are no longer cohort based but are updated annually on 1st August for all Registered Students for the succeeding academic session.

This note includes information regarding substantive changes to academic and student Regulations, Codes of Practice, Policies and Guidance, which were approved by the Academic Policy & Regulations Committee, and which came into effect on 1st August 2014.

1. Changes to University Regulations

(a) Regulation 1

A new definition of External Students.

(b) Regulation 5

- Amendments clarifying responsibilities in relation to UK immigration law and providing greater flexibility in the examination and results processing period.
- Automatic withdrawal of any student who has been excluded for a continuous period of 12 months.

(c) Regulation 6

A change to provide greater flexibility in the award of Joint Honours degrees and in respect of Undergraduate Masters programmes.

(d) Regulation 7

A change to allow the possibility for a second “revise and resubmit” recommendation to be made if one or more of the examiners has, for good reason, withdrawn after the first examination of a thesis. (There is an associated change to the Code of Practice on Assessment of Research Degree Theses.)

2. New Code of Practice

A new Code of Practice on Student Visa Requirements has been introduced. It sets out procedures and responsibilities arising from the University’s status as a Highly Trusted Sponsor under Tier 4 of the Points Based Immigration System.

3. Changes to University Codes of Practice, Policies and Guidance

(a) Academic Appeals

Clarifications in relation to rationalising processes and combining the Codes of Practice on Primary Appeals Procedure and on Senate Review.

(b) Assessment of Research Degree Theses

A change to allow the possibility for a second “revise and resubmit” recommendation to be made if one or more of the examiners has, for good reason, withdrawn after the first examination of a thesis

(c) Distance Learning

Amendments to extend the PhD by Distance Learning to cover all research programmes and to insert into the checklist a section on ethical review.

(d) Extenuating Circumstances

Amendments to expand options available; to clarify evidence required; and to allow Final Year students, with good reason, to sit examinations in the supplementary period.

(e) Freedom of Speech on Campus

Minor amendments have been made to ensure the definition of intimidation covers online and social media and to clarify how the Code is overseen.

(f) Leave of Absence

An amendment to allow the University to place a student on leave of absence. Until this point the procedure could only be initiated by a student.

(g) Student Attendance and Reasonable Diligence

- Changes to remove inconsistencies and create greater clarity whilst making the process less confrontational.
- Minor changes to ensure greater clarity regarding the support mechanisms available to students.

(h) Student Concerns and Complaints

A revision of the Code merging processes into a single Complaints Review Panel stage, introducing a procedure for dealing with bullying and harassment; placing mediation in an appendix.

(i) Student Representation System

Changes to broaden the terms of reference of Staff-Student Consultative Committees and change of Policy to a Code of Practice to emphasise need for compliance.

(j) Supervision and Monitoring Progress of Postgraduate Researchers

Changes to help to ensure the University fulfils its obligations to the Home Office as a Tier 4 Highly Trusted Sponsor.

(k) Taught Programme and Module Assessment

- Amendments to permit the award of degrees in the case of final year students who fail to complete their studies due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. death or terminal illness).
- Changes to provide timelines in relation to the provision of generic feedback.

(l) Timetabling Policy

Amendments regarding start and end times of lectures, and precedence of Applicant Visit Days over non-teaching events.

(m) Guidance to Students on Outside Employment

Clarification on when the limits on working hours should apply.

The University Regulations and Codes of Practice are available at:
<http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/legislation/>.

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